

## A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

We've done a lot together this past extraordinary year. And, while it's far from over, I want to recognize something pretty spectacular: our community's outpouring of support since COVID began.

From volunteer hours and food drives to collections of hand-sewn masks and hand sanitizer, to a significant number of monetary donations, folks like you dug deep and gave generously to help our community through this crisis.

Here's what your generosity achieved:

- Provided 3 million meals – more than twice our previous record.
- Distributed over \$10M in financial assistance – 5 times normal.
- Opened 3 new homeless shelters, two in less than 72 hours!
- Served 10,000 additional people, mostly families with children and seniors in need.

We were able to step up for the 25,000 people who came to us over the past year because of you. Thank you.



**Samaritan House is dedicated to fighting poverty and lifting lives.**

Everyone is wondering when things will get back to "normal" now that the vaccine is being widely administered. Here's the unfortunate reality: the pandemic isn't over yet, and we've only scratched the surface of its economic devastation. As our world begins to reopen, we know the experience for those at the economic top is very different from those living below the poverty line.

Here's the hard truth: the average local renter has accumulated as much as \$30,000 in rental debt. Not everyone can access federal aid to pay that back.

Not everyone is back to work with a paycheck to help. And, all too many have lost loved ones – grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses... folks who were also income earners. As the end of the eviction moratorium looms, we are working tirelessly to re-stabilize families to keep them in their homes.

Samaritan House is dedicated to fighting poverty and lifting lives. We help people in times of crisis – whether it's a global pandemic or a personal time of need – because we know an enduring community is only possible when everyone has what they need to live.

Thank you for fighting alongside us over the past year. As we head into another indefinite period of elevated need, I invite you to stay with us in this fight.

Appreciatively,



Bart Charlow, LMFT  
CEO

# JOSE'S STORY

It has been a year of immense loss for Jose and his 3 daughters Camila, Melany and Victoria. Jose and his wife Nayeli both contracted COVID-19 in May 2020. Working as a mechanic in Redwood City, Jose fell behind on rent during his 20-day illness and eventual recovery. Nayeli never recovered, and she died from COVID at the age of 42.



**“I was focused on the emotional support of my young children. My daughters lost their mother. I lost my partner. I did not even think of how I was going to make it through. I became a Samaritan House client out of desperation. I had to bury my wife, and I was already two months behind on my rent.”**

–Jose

Samaritan House case manager, Julio Campos, guided Jose through the process of applying for rental assistance. Despite the trauma and grief of losing a loved one to COVID, and recovering himself, Jose wanted to get back to work. As soon as he was medically cleared, and it was safe to do so, he returned to his job.

**“It was a big emotional relief to know that at least I was going to be able to keep my daughters housed. I’m still hurt and I’m still grieving, but I am relieved to be able to provide my daughters a home and I owe that to Samaritan House.”**



Jose does not have health insurance, but he knows he can see a doctor at one of the Samaritan House free medical clinics, if he ever needs to. For now, he is just taking life day by day. He remains employed and at this time, he hasn't needed to use any other services. Jose remains incredibly grateful not just for the financial help, but for his case manager's compassion and empathy, too.

**“Julio was there to guide me through the process, and he was there for me emotionally, too. I can never repay that generosity and support from Julio and Samaritan House. They were there when I needed it the most.”**



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## DONOR HIGHLIGHT: Mikita Belahlazau

No one could have predicted just how long our lives would have been changed by the pandemic. When software engineer Mikita Belahlazau was mandated to work remotely, he certainly didn't think he would be working from his San Mateo home over one year later.



"I knew that I was fortunate to have the ability to do my job from home. Many don't. I have stable, good income while others were losing work or getting sick from COVID." - Mikita

Shortly after the first stay-at-home order, Mikita made the remarkable promise to himself to donate \$50.00 to Samaritan House every day that he was working from home. He says with a laugh, "I figured this would be a couple months, so not a big commitment. I thought my self-imposed tax was an easy way for me to help others."



"One year and counting...a promise given to yourself is still a promise..."

And so it began. As part of his daily routine, Mikita logs on and clicks the "donate" button online. He likes the routine of having to go to the Samaritan House website each morning. He says that making the donation at the start of his work day is very satisfying.

"It feels nice to start my day in this way. I make a very

good living as an engineer, and it didn't feel like a big burden to donate like this. Samaritan House is helping those who have no work and can't afford food. For me, I felt I had a responsibility to contribute."

Over one year and an astounding \$20,000 later, Mikita has kept his promise to himself while making a profound impact on our neighbors living in poverty.



Thank you to all of our supporters for another successful event.  
Together we can. Fight Poverty. Lift Lives.

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## DR. CORA CLEMONS EMERGING YOUNG SAMARITAN AWARD

Samaritan House is proud to announce the establishment of the Dr. Cora Clemons Emerging Young Samaritan Award.

In 1974, Dr. Cora Clemons was concerned that it was too difficult for people in North Central San Mateo to gain access to basic social services.

Through her lifelong dedication as a social worker and advocacy in the San Mateo School District, she knew that there had to be a better way to bring services to the areas where people in the greatest need resided. When Dr. Cora Clemons convened her associates, family and friends to discuss the challenges, the idea of Samaritan House was born. Shortly thereafter, Samaritan House opened its doors in a small, two bedroom house in North San Mateo. Now, 47 years later, Samaritan House is more dedicated than ever to realizing Dr. Clemons' vision of fighting poverty and lifting lives.



Dr. Cora P. Clemons,  
R.N., M.F.C.C.,  
M.P.H., PhD

### What is the award?

With this annual award, we recognize and celebrate Dr. Clemons' empathy, drive and commitment to community. Our purpose is to shine a light on deserving young changemakers who are committed to Dr. Clemons' spirit of being in service to others.

### Who is eligible for the award?

The award is open to young individuals (16-22 years as of July 1, 2021) who live and serve others in San Mateo County and who demonstrate courage, compassion and a commitment to making an impact.

**Award: \$2,000**

### When are nominations and applications due?

**July 1st: Nominations and Applications will be available**

**August 31st: Nominations and Applications deadline**

To submit an application, go to <https://samaritanhousesanmateo.org/drclemons-award>.

Award Recipient will be announced in September 2021 and will be recognized at the annual Main Event gala in 2022.

Questions: Please contact Samaritan House Award Committee at [DrClemonsAward@samaritanhousesanmateo.org](mailto:DrClemonsAward@samaritanhousesanmateo.org).

## SUPPORT LOCAL STUDENTS THIS SUMMER: BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE 2021



Last year, amid unprecedented need, Samaritan House distributed 2,000 backpacks to local students in need of supplies. This year, we are aiming even higher, with a goal of 3,000 backpacks collected by July 30th. Will you help us?

On a Saturday morning in August 2020, hundreds of cars lined up at the San Mateo Event Center for the annual Samaritan House Backpack Distribution, which had transitioned into a contactless, drive-through format for the very first time. Amid a disrupted learning year, these supplies were more critical than ever in ensuring our community's students had what they needed to be successful.

This coming school year, the need is even greater, with countless families feeling the sustained economic

hardships of long-term unemployment, cut wages, and little reserves in their bank account for needed school supplies. We believe children deserve to have everything they need to learn and grow, and we're streamlining a safe system for the backpack giveaway so all kids can be ready for school, no matter what the coming year may bring.

To maintain safety protocols and minimize the amount of people handling supplies, our backpacks will come fully assembled, stocked with brand new binders, art supplies, folders, notebooks, pencils, pens, highlighters, index cards, and more. Will you help us meet our goal of 3,000 backpacks for local students? You can donate a new backpack filled with school supplies online at <https://www.roonga.com/samhousebackpack>.

The deadline for all Back to School contributions will be July 30, 2021. Please join us in enriching the education of local students by donating a backpack through our virtual drive: <https://www.roonga.com/samhousebackpack>!

**We believe children deserve to have everything they need to learn and grow, and we're streamlining a safe system for the backpack giveaway so all kids can be ready for school, no matter what the coming year may bring.**



## THANK YOU TO OUR INCREDIBLE COVID-RELIEF SUPPORTERS!

These past several months have challenged us like few in recent memory. It is no cliché to say that we could not have gotten through this year without you, our committed supporters. Thank you to everyone who stepped up to help with our continued COVID-19 crisis response over these past many months. Your hours volunteering, time spent gathering masks and PPE, and donations of generous funds kept our services running smoothly for those neighbors hardest hit by the health crisis, job loss, and economic uncertainty. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, you have helped us share 3 million meals with community members, open three new shelters, provide over \$10 million in financial assistance, and so, so much more. Thank you for stepping forward as we continue to navigate the many unknowns. Below, we've highlighted the many generous supporters with gifts totaling \$10,000 or more, between July 1, 2020 and May 1, 2021. For a complete list of donors, please visit our digital Annual Report, set to be published in October 2021.

### \$100k+

Drs. Subha and Yeturu Aahlad  
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### \$25k-\$49.9K

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### \$10k-\$24.9k

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*"I'm supporting Samaritan House with a Legacy Gift because Samaritan House holds a special place in my heart. When the needs of the community changed, Samaritan House stepped forward to care for the people who need help now. They do a fantastic job of helping those in need with all the basic necessities of life such as food, healthcare, clothing." – Pam Frisella*

## WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR LEGACY TO BE?

Join other like-minded people who want to build a brighter future filled with hope for thousands of homeless and low-income San Mateo County families and individuals. Legacy gifts are not just for the wealthy, but for all of us as we start to prepare for our retirement and plan for the allocation of our estate. Designate a gift to Samaritan House through a will, trust, or other planned gift and ensure a lasting impact for generations to come. To join the John Kelly Legacy Circle all you need to do is tell us that your gift is in place. Contact Jessica Mitchell at 650-523-0817 or send an email to [jmitchell@samaritanhousesanmateo.org](mailto:jmitchell@samaritanhousesanmateo.org). We respect your right to privacy and will keep your intention confidential, if you wish.